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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
9 AT SEATTLE

10 NORTHWEST  
11 ADMINISTRATORS, INC.,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 HW MAINTENANCE LAX, LLC,

15 Defendant.

CASE NO. C20-0594JLR

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

16 This matter comes before the court *sua sponte*. Defendant HW Maintenance  
17 LAX, LLC (“HW Maintenance”) filed an answer to Plaintiff Northwest Administrators,  
18 Inc.’s complaint signed by Jose D. Gutierrez. (*See* Ans. (Dkt. # 6) at 4.) The answer and  
19 Mr. Gutierrez’s signature block fail to indicate whether Mr. Gutierrez is proceeding *pro*  
20 *se* or whether he is appearing as counsel on behalf of HW Maintenance. If Mr. Gutierrez  
21 is a licensed attorney appearing on behalf of HW Maintenance, then his signature needs  
22 to comply with the court’s electronic filing procedures, which require that attorney

1 signature blocks for an attorney's initial appearance list the attorney's bar number,  
2 address, phone number, and email address. *See* W.D. Wash. Electronic Filing Procedures  
3 for Civil and Criminal Cases § III.L (outlining proper format for signature block for  
4 attorney appearances).

5       Alternatively, if Mr. Gutierrez is not an attorney and seeks to represent HW  
6 Maintenance *pro se*, then his attempted appearance is improper. Supreme Court  
7 precedent and this court's local rules require that a business entity must be represented by  
8 counsel in federal court. *See Rowland v. Cal. Men's Colony*, 506 U.S. 194, 202 (1993)  
9 ("It has been the law for the better part of two centuries . . . that a corporation may appear  
10 in federal courts only through licensed counsel . . . [T]hat rule applies equally to all  
11 artificial entities."); W.D. Wash. Local Rule LCR 83.2(b)(3) ("A business entity, except a  
12 sole proprietorship, must be represented by counsel."). Under the local rules, a business  
13 entity's failure to obtain counsel "may result in . . . entry of default against the business  
14 entity." W.D. Wash. Local Rule LCR 83.2(b)(3).

15       Accordingly, the court ORDERS HW Maintenance to re-file its answer with an  
16 appropriate signature block for Mr. Gutierrez if he is an attorney, obtain counsel to  
17 represent it in this lawsuit if Mr. Gutierrez is not an attorney, or show cause within 30  
18 days of the filing date of this order why the court should not enter default against HW

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1 Maintenance if it remains unrepresented by counsel. If HW Maintenance does not obtain  
2 counsel or otherwise show cause within 30 days, the court will enter default against it.

3 Dated this 26th day of June, 2020.

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6 JAMES L. ROBART  
7 United States District Judge  
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